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Agenda item 9
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Fiji*: draft resolution

Graduation of countries from the least developed countries category

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/32 of 27 July 2012 on the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session,

Taking into account its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, 65/286 of 29 June 2011 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to take note of decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from the category of least developed countries, as well as the inclusion of countries in that category, at the first session of the General Assembly following the adoption of the decisions by the Council,

Emphasizing that graduation from the category of least developed countries is a major milestone for the country involved as it means that significant progress has been made towards reaching at least some of its development goals,

1. *Reaffirms* that graduating from the category of least developed countries should not result in a disruption of development plans, programmes and projects;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to endorse the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the category of least developed countries;

3. *Invites* Equatorial Guinea to prepare, during the three-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and the graduation of Equatorial Guinea, its national smooth transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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4. *Takes note* of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to endorse the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Vanuatu be graduated from the category of least developed countries, and decides to provide Vanuatu, on an exceptional basis, with an additional preparatory period of one year before the start of the three-year preparatory period leading to graduation;

5. *Invites* Vanuatu to prepare, during the four-year period between the adoption of the present resolution and the graduation of Vanuatu, its national smooth transition strategy, with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners.